29th January 1936]

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I am not speaking with particular reference to this district; generally it is found that after the preparation of the electoral rolls, many changes have to be made."

Alteration of the reserved seats of the Tinnevelly District Board.

* 562 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the reservation of seats in the Tinnevelly District Board has been altered; and

(*b*) if so, what the alterations made are and what the reasons are for each of such alterations?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The number of seats reserved for Muslims was raised from two to three and that of seats reserved for women reduced from two to one. The Government considered that Muslim community deserved an additional reserved seat on account of their numerical strength.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I ask whether this question of adequate representation of the Muslim community was not considered in the year 1932?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I cannot say whether it was considered or not; but from time to time representations have been made to me that the Muslim representation was inadequate. I considered that their claims were reasonable and the Government have finally decided to increase the number."

S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know from the Hon. the Chief Minister whether similar representations have been received from the Muslims in regard to the other districts of the Presidency?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Representations have been received from time to time; but I cannot say from how many districts."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"We find here that the representation given to women has been reduced to one seat. May I ask whether it is the opinion of the Government that women have been over-represented till now?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"There is no over-representation in a special constituency. The Act lays down that the number of reserved seats should not exceed 25 per cent of the total number of general seats, and so the Government had to cut down the number of reserved seats by one for giving representation to one community. They thought this was the desirable course to adopt."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"May I ask the Hon. the Chief Minister whether he is not aware that woman is a force to be reckoned with?"